

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 ICA-20 HA-05 /061 W  
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R 291321Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7035

UNCLAS AMMAN 06236

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, JO  
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN UNION APPEALS FOR AFL-CIO ASSISTANCE  
- FOLLOWING RUSEIFA MINE COLLAPSE

1. ON JULY 26 PRESIDENT OF RUSEIFA PHOSPHATE WORKERS' UNION KHALID SHREIM CALLED EMBASSY TO PRESENT APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO WORKERS AFFECTED BY JULY 9 MINE COLLAPSE. TUNNELING AT RUSEIFA PHOSPHATE MINE CAUSED COLLAPSE OF FORTY-FIVE MINERS' HOUSES SITUATED ON OR NEAR TUNNELS. ANOTHER 300 HOUSES ARE REPORTEDLY SERIOUSLY ENOUGH DAMAGED TO HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSAFE AND MARKED FOR POSSIBLE DEMOLITION. ALTHOUGH COLLAPSE OF HOUSES RESULTED IN NO DEATHS, 272 PEOPLE ARE NOW HOMELESS AND HAVE TAKEN TEMPORARY REFUGE IN RUSEIFA SCHOOLS. THEY WILL BE FORCED TO MOVE AS SOON AS SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS IN LATE AUGUST AND SO FAR HAVE NO PLACE TO GO UNTIL HOUSING CAN BE BUILT.

2. UNION PRESIDENT SHREIM SAYS HE HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM JFTU, GOJ AND OTHER ARAB LABOR UNIONS, SO FAR TO NO AVAIL. (MINLABOR OFFICIAL CONFIRMS THAT GOJ UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDS). HIS APPEAL FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE, ADDRESSED TO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY, REQUESTS TENTS, COTS AND MEDICAL AND FOOD SUPPLIES, TO PROVIDE FOOD AND SHELTER  
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FOR FAMILIES AFTER THEY MOVE OUT OF SCHOOLS.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY HANDLED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SUCH AS THIS AND HAS PROMISED UNION PRESIDENT ONLY THAT APPEAL WILL BE FORWARDED. SUGGEST AAFLI MIGHT BE BEST CONDUIT FOR OR SOURCE OF WHATEVER ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED. TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S

KNOWLEDGE, \$40,000 EAR-MARKED BY AAFLI FOR PROJECTS IN JORDAN FOR YEAR ENDING 3/31/79, HAS NOT YET BEEN DRAWN ON.) AAFLI HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSEIFA PHOSPHATE UNION BY ASSISTING IN ESTABLISHING WORKERS' CLINIC THERE. INDEED, IT IS SUCCESS OF THIS RELATIONSHIP THAT LED UNION PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS APPEAL TO U.S. ORGANIZED LABOR, PARTICULARLY IN FACE OF NON-RESPONSE FROM OTHER SOURCES.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S PRELIMINARY ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THIS APPEAL FOR HELP WILL BE CONSIDERED BY AFL-CIO AND/OR AAFLI, IN ORDER TO KEEP UNDERSTANDABLY ANXIOUS UNION PRESIDENT INFORMED.SUDDARTH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, MINING, ACCIDENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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